

Burnt Bridge Creek Watershed

Description: Located in southwest Clark County, this watershed drains a 28 square mile area and encompasses four subwatersheds: Upper, Middle, and Lower Burnt Bridge Creek, and Burton Sink. Stream channels alternate between man-made ditches and natural channels and drain westward through the City of Vancouver into Vancouver Lake.

Land Cover:

- **Forest:** Almost entirely absent of forest cover except for park lands and isolated areas in lower watershed
- **Development:** The most heavily developed watershed in Clark County
- **Agriculture:** Pasture/grasslands confined to upper watershed and along greenway corridor
- **Water:** Vancouver Lake; a few intact headwater wetlands and near-stream wetlands present

Likely Condition:

- The amount of intact forest and hard surface suggest poor stream conditions are very likely

Resources to Protect:

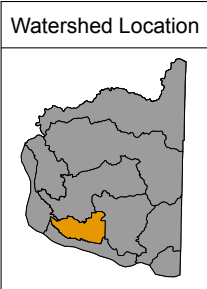
- Headwater and stream corridor wetlands
- Greenway corridors
- Parks and open space
- Vancouver Lake

Suggested Stream Health Strategies:

- Increase infiltration and retention of stormwater runoff
- Encourage healthy stream and riparian management in residential areas
- Work with property owners to eliminate pollution sources
- Restore riparian forest and wetlands
- Promote good septic system maintenance practices

Subwatershed	Forest %	Hard Surface %
Burton Sink	--	--
Lower Burnt Bridge Creek	10	50
Middle Burnt Bridge Creek	4	50
Upper Burnt Bridge Creek	4	58

This table shows the amount of land that is covered by forest and by hard surfaces in each subwatershed. The map on the facing page provides the subwatershed boundaries for reference.



Burnt Bridge Watershed: Stream Health

Burnt Bridge Stream Health Score Card

Subwatershed	Water Quality	Biological Health	Flow	Subwatershed Rating
Lower Burnt Bridge Creek	●	--	--	●
Middle Burnt Bridge Creek	●	--	--	●
Indicator Rating	●			
Overall Watershed Rating:				Poor ●

Data were not collected from the following subwatersheds: Burton Sink and Upper Burnt Bridge Creek

Score Summary:

- There are no good or fair ratings
- Historical data suggest Burnt Bridge Creek is the least healthy stream in Clark County
- Washington Department of Ecology is developing a state Water Cleanup Plan for bacteria, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and pH

Special Study: Burnt Bridge Creek Stream Temperature Study

Study Description: Description: 19 sites within Burnt Bridge Creek Watershed; May – September 2008 and 2009. Stream temperature data were analyzed using the state criterion.

Report link: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/burntbridge/BBC_tmdlUpdateMtg062010.pdf

Why is this important? Salmon need cold water to survive. Prolonged exposure to stream temperatures above 63.5 °F can harm or kill salmon.

Results:

- Stream temperature did not meet Washington state standards at 18 of 19 stations for extended periods of time (1 – 12+ weeks).
- Stream temperatures in the upper watershed sites spent less time above 63.5 °F than the middle and lower watershed.

Special Study: Burnt Bridge Creek Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Plan

Study Description: 19 sites within Burnt Bridge Creek Watershed; May – September 2008 and 2009

Report link: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/burntbridge/BBC_tmdlUpdateMtg062010.pdf

Why is this important? The presence of fecal coliform bacteria indicates the stream has been contaminated with human or animal waste. Bacteria TMDL (also called Water Cleanup Plans) efforts identify and recommend ways to reduce bacteria sources.

Did not meet standards

Results:

- No site met the state water quality criteria for bacteria levels

